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RAJYA SABHA

The following Bills were introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 1959:—

BILL No. XIX OF 1959.

A Bill to provide for and to regulate the colouring of vanaspati so as to prevent it from being used as an adulterant of ghee

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Tenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Colouring of Vanaspati Act, 1959. Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Definitions.

(i) "colouring agent" means any colouring agent, not detrimental to health, which can easily be detected by the naked eye when vanaspati containing that agent is mixed with ghee.

(ii) "vanaspati" includes any hydrogenated oil or fat used for edible purposes.

3. (1) No person shall manufacture vanaspati without using a colouring agent. Punishment
for manufac-
ture of
vanaspati
without
using colour-
ing agent.

(2) If any person contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1), he shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

For centuries *ghee* has been and is an essential food medium in India for vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. As hydrogenated vanaspati resembles *ghee* in appearance and colour, it is being used on a large scale for adulteration of *ghee* in the country by many *ghee* dealers. Consequently pure *ghee* is not available in the market in spite of high prices. This Bill seeks to make it compulsory for all vanaspati producers to colour all brands of vanaspati in such a manner that the adulteration of *ghee* with vanaspati even in small quantities can be detected by the naked eye.

JUGAL KISHORE

BILL No. XVIII OF 1959

A Bill to restrict the use of the Catholic Church for political purposes and the participation of Ecclesiastical personnel of the Catholic Church in political activity.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Tenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title
and extent.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Catholic Church Premises and Ecclesiastic Order (Restriction of Political Activity) Act, 1959.

(2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(i) "Catholic Church" means a church, chapel, shrine or any other place of worship used by any order or denomination of the Roman Catholic Church for the purpose of worship, prayer, baptism, confessions, mass or other common religious functions;

(ii) "church premises" means any place in or around a Catholic Church including the pulpit, the prayer hall, the quadrangle, the compound of the catholic church, the cemetery, the residences and offices of the Vicars, the Mother-Superiors, the Bishops, the Archbishops or the Cardinals, the seminaries, the convents, and or any such other buildings, compounds, enclosures or open spaces which are primarily meant for conducting religious functions or prayers or for religious training or for the residences and offices of the functionaries of the Catholic Church;

(iii) "resources" means funds and/or other properties including printing press, newspapers and journals owned by or on behalf of the Catholic Church;

(iv) "political activity" means—

(a) any activity in favour of or against any Government;

(b) any activity in favour of or against any political party or group;

(c) propagation of political views.

3. (1) No Catholic Church or church premises or resources shall be used for any political activity.

(2) No Cardinal, Archbishop, Bishop, Vicar, Mother-Superior, nun, brother or other dignitary, functionary or officer of the Catholic Church shall, in his or her capacity as a functionary of the Catholic Church or by using his or her ecclesiastical position or title, take part in, or encourage, any political activity.

Restriction of the use of Catholic Church or its premises or its resources for political purposes and prohibition of the participation by the ecclesiastical persons in political activities.

4. (1) Any person who uses any Catholic Church or church premises or resources for any political activity in violation of sub-section (1) of section 3 shall be liable to be warned by the appropriate Government and if so warned, his name together with the warning shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Penalty for offences.

(2) Any Cardinal, Archbishop, Bishop, Vicar or any other dignitary, functionary, or officer of the Catholic Church who takes part in, or encourages, any political activity in violation of sub-section (2) of section 3 shall be liable to be warned and if so warned, his or her name together with the warning shall be published in the Official Gazette.

(3) All handbills, pamphlets and other publications containing any appeal or statement in violation of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 3 shall be liable to be seized by the Government and forfeited.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It has been noticed recently that the Catholic Church and its ecclesiastical personnel are engaging more and more in political activities. Appeals to religious susceptibilities and sentiments of the Catholics are frequently made by the ecclesiastical personnel and

the resources of the Church are used for furthering political agitation or for achieving certain political ends. This is contrary to the concepts of a secular State whose very foundation is liable to be undermined by such introduction of religion into the politics or into secular matters affecting the State. Public opinion all over the country has been clearly expressed against the mixing up of religion with political activity. It has now become necessary to restrict such political activities in the paramount interests of the secular State. Sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 25 of the Constitution also enables restriction to be imposed on political activities which may be associated with religious practice. The Bill seeks to impose minimum restriction on such activities.

BHUPESH GUPTA

S. N. MUKERJEE,
Secretary.